

Message Text

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FOL RPT ISLAMABAD 7677 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 7677

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, PK, IZ, PLO

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF PLO - IRAQI CLASHES

REF: ISLAMABAD 7622

1. WHILE PAKISTAN'S POLICE FORCES CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR THE
"TWO UNIDENTIFIED FOREIGN YOUTHS" WHO KILLED FOUR IN THE AUGUST
4 ATTACK ON THE ISLAMABAD PLO OFFICE, SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN
INCREASED FOR OTHER ARAB MISSIONS HERE. THE PRESS AUGUST 7 REPORTS
THAT THE PROVINCIAL POLICE CHIEF HAS PERSONALLY VISITED THE PLO,
SAUDI AND IRAQI EMBASSIES TO INSPECT THE IMPROVED SECURITY
ARRANGEMENTS.

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2. BODIES OF THE THREE PALESTINIANS KILLED IN THE ATTACK
ARE BEING RETURNED TO THE MIDDLE EAST AUGUST8. ACCORD-
ING TO A PLO NEWSRELEASE, TWO OF THOSE KILLED WILL BE FLOWN
TO BEIRUT WHILE THE THIRD WILL GO TO "OCCUPIED PALESTINE."

3. THE PLO RELEASE IS QUOTED BY THE LOCAL PRESS AS SAYING
ALSO THAT, WHILE IT WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT ZIONIST ENEMIES,

THE PLO WILL NOT "INDULGE IN SUCH DIRTY ACTIONS (AS THE ATTACK)...AND PUT THE HOST COUNTRY IN AN AWKWARD POSITION."

4. PLO CHIEF YASSER ARAFAT IS REPORTED TO HAVE SENT A MESSAGE TO CMLA GENERAL ZIA EXPRESSING HIS CONDOLENCES TO THE PAK PEOPLE AND THE FAMILY OF THE POLICEMAN SALIN DURING THE AUGUST 4 RAID. ARAFAT'S MESSAGE PROMISED THE DEAD PAKISTANI OFFICER A PLACE ON THE LIST OF PALESTINE'S MARTYRS AND STATED THE PLO WILL SUPPORT THE SLAIN MAN'S FAMILY UNTIL HIS CHILDREN ARE GROWN.

5. IN A PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT, THE IRAQI EMBASSY HERE DENIED ANY IRAQI INVOLVEMENT IN THE ATTACK ON THE PLO. THE STATEMENT "VEHEMENTLY REJECTED" ALL SUGGESTIONS THAT ANY IRAQIS WERE INVOLVED.

6. THE CITY HAS REMAINED CALM IN THE WAKE OF THE SHOOTOUT. WHILE THERE APPEARS TO BE GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE BRUTAL KILLINGS, THERE IS LITTLE VISIBLE OUTRAGE ON THE PART OF THE PAKISTANIS AND NO SIGNS OF INORDINATE CONCERN FOR THE SECURITY OF OTHER-THAN-ARAB FACILITIES IN THE CITY.

--ARAFAT'S MESSAGE TO THE CMLA WITH ITS OFFER OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE DEAD POLICE OFFICER'S FAMILY CONTRASTS WITH THE DOWNPLAYING OF THAT ASPECT BY THE GOP AND THE LOCAL PRESS. NEWSPAPER STORIES ON THE ATTACK TENDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO EMPHASIZE IN HEADLINES THE THREE PALESTINIANS KILLED WHILE MENTIONING THE PAKISTANI DEATH ONLY IN THE BODY OF THE STORY.

--THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED ONLY A FEW INFORMAL INQUIRIES FROM AMERICANS ABOUT THE INCIDENTS HERE AND IN KARACHI. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO PERCEIVED OR POTENTIAL DANGER TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN PAKISTAN RESULTING FROM THESE INTER-ARAB CONFRONTATIONS.

HUMMEL

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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